

22 Rosemary Court  
Middlefield  
Ct 06455

March 5<sup>th</sup> 2018

**House Bill 5372,**

My name is Jackie Staddon, I live in Middlefield, Connecticut. I fully support HB 5372 An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs.

I have two sons with dyslexia who required specialist instruction to learn to read. They both attended a private school that specialized in dyslexia and other language-based learning as the public school could not meet their needs at that time.

As an advocate working with families, I have seen the difficulties parents have trying to secure the needed services in terms of scientifically proven instruction at the intensity required. The delay in diagnosis and in securing appropriate interventions has a negative impact on students with them needed far more services to close the learning gap. It impacts not only the academics but also the self esteem and anxiety of the students.

Having teachers, particularly in the elementary grades with the knowledge and tools to meet the needs of children with dyslexia could make a difference by meeting student needs.

If teachers received training while at college or university it would save districts money, teachers time, and students from falling behind.

This bill could ensure minimum standards for knowledge and practice within us institutions of higher education on how teachers are prepared in structured literacy and how this will benefit both teachers and students.

Yours Sincerely

Jackie Staddon